Roselli, John CASTRO, Fisel

Roselli Dies; Now | There Are None

In the early sixties, the Central Intelligence Agency recruited two mobsters to act as middlemen in a plot to assassinate Premier Fidel Castro of Cuba. Now the second man, John Roselli, has been found dead, and as in the case of Sam Giancana 13 months ago, there is no explanation of his death.

Both men were murdered in classic gangland style. Mr. Roselli's body was found last week in an oil drum wrapped in chains floating in Dumbfoundling Bay, an arm of Biscayne Bay between North Miami and Miami Beach. Mr. Giancana was found dead in his suburban Chicago home, six bullets in and around his head.

There is no publicly known evidence that the two murders did or did not have a connection to the abortive plot against the Cuban leader. Mr. Roselli was a cooperative witness last year before a Senate committee investigating intelligence activities; Mr. Giancana was killed shortly before he was to testify. And during the period the two men were involved in the Castro plot, a young woman they knew well also had a romantic relationship with the late President John F. Kennedy.

Though authorities have not solved either mobster's murder, they say their belief is that Giancana and Roselli both were killed by other underworld figures. After several days of saying there was no reason for a Federal inquiry into a local murder, and after several requests from Congress that it do so, the Justice Department reversed itself and ordered the Federal Bureau of Investigation to take a look.